

RMA OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

October 17, 2006

Cody, Wyoming

Present: Dave Clement (Chair), Dan Morford (Vice-chair), Ken Kerr, Steve Eckert, Mike Hostetler, Bill Hahnenberg, Joe Lowe, Don Angel, Pete Blume, Larry Trapp, Clair Brown, Kim Martin, Tom Landon, Debbie Bozarth

1. Review nominations, prioritize and select candidates for S420/520/620

Reviewed the course selection criteria (refer to the ops guide)

Passed around the list that Kim Bang sent Dave on S420 candidates. Strong pools except for FSC, LSC and PSC.

Suggestion from Ken that the class be advertised to other regions, and that will help fill out the teams. Usually all the GATR's coordinate with each other, and they look at who can fill a class. Sometimes a region will not host a class. Each year we look at this, and will need to decide in the future for the times that we won't be able to always fill a team completely, because of some of the critical positions, and our game plan.

Bill - if we say that we are going to have 2 or 3 teams, and then decide the holes, and the IC's can help fill in the voids from strong candidates that are eligible, or may not have a taskbook, or didn't know the applications had happened. We can also use someone who has already had the class to fill in the hole.

General Discussion:

Clair - Agencies are not willing to let people be committed for entire fire seasons, plus hurricanes. He passed on this message from Rich Homann- the state is still fully supportive of the teams, but it is getting really challenging to get regular jobs done plus help out on teams.

Don - Cooperators field a bunch of IMT positions. Agency support on its own is not going to be as strong a player because of the various problems, of budget cuts, retirements, etc.

Dave - how do we build a strategy to tap this market?

As far as FSC, some states require an agency FSC.

OIG reports - large cost review, need to do a better job of getting these reports out to the states, cooperator.

Hoss - we need to pass the recommendation back to Kim on S420, so they will be looking at it nationally.

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2007 S420 Selections by Operations Committee:

	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
IC	Shawna Legarza	Cliff Hutton	Kyle Cowen
PIO	Karl Brauneis	Jen Chase	Larry Helmerick
SOF	Shane DelGrosso	Frank Keeler	Mike Harvey
PSC	Brian Watts	Phillips	Rick Connell
OSC	Chuck Russell	Thomas Smith	Steve Rinella
LSC	George Bigby	Laddie Cumbie	Wade Johnson
FSC	Laura McConnell		

IC = Need to coach people a bit before the class so they know what to expect at 420. Bill is planning on having a short session with the IC's at 420 this year along these lines.

FSC

Tammy Cordell (BKF) (Joe will talk with her)
Biddy Simet (NRC) (Bill will talk with her)
Lily Husky (NRC) (Pete will talk with her)
Denise Tomlin (R02) (Dave will talk with her)
Annette Pintado (R02) (Dave will talk with her)
Landra (BKF) (Joe will talk with her)
Joni Bruch (BKF) (Joe or Marc/Don will talk with her?)
Liz Turner (WRF) (Bill will talk with her)

We need a strategy: IC's will contact the list above.

Is RMCG aware of the availability issues? The line officers need to make this happen. This gets discussed every year. Last February, Dave very clearly articulated to them that we need their help, but they are not seeming to be responsive. Maybe RMCG can make a run nationally at the ABQ finance center, also the national ops committee is going to discuss this issue at their next meeting. The battle we continue to fight is them being able to be available.

PSC

Rick Lehman as an alternate, already has had 420

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S520

2007 candidates (doing prework currently)

1 - Justin Dombrowski PIO

2 - Roger Showman LSC

3 - Mark Giacoletto PSC

Discussion on the mentees on the Ty 1 team. It helps to give them exposure and experience in that arena, and with this builds their confidence for S520. If these people are currently committed to a teams C&G, just send them over to the Ty 1 for one assignment to build that confidence for S520.

Kim is proposing that we have 3 OSC on Ty 1 teams. Complexity is only increasing. All in agreement. He will propose to RMCG in AM.

2008 candidates

IC

1 - Don Angel

2 - Bill Hahnenberg

3 - Mike Frary

4 - Ken Kerr

LSC

Charlie Rossi

OSC

Todd Pechota

Jim Strain

Randy Skelton

Jay Kerth

Geoff Bell

Fenn Wimberly

PIO

1 - Frank Carrol

2 - Pam Wilson

PSC

Dave Farmer

SOF

none

2009 candidates (have some flexibility)

IC

Mark Giacoletto

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2. Identify IMT vacancies for 2007

Type 1

DIVS	ATGS	ASGS
RESL	CTSP	SITL
DOCL	SCKN	LOFR
TNSP	SPUL	FACL
OPBD		

Propose the following personnel:

DIVS - Frank Keeler

SITL - Richard Sterry and Bob Bizal

DOCL - Charlene Madsen

LOFR - Bob Kittridge

RMA Type 2

Mullenix

FACL

AOBD

ASGS

ATGS

Blume

AOBD

ASGS (jobshare)

DIVS (jobshare)

ATGS (jobshare)

SD Zone T2 Team

Lowe

SPUL

ORDM

DMOB

FUMT

OSC2 (jobshare)

2 DIVS

RESL

COST (jobshare)

FBAN

COML

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3. Set up recruitment process for IMT vacancies

Kim proposed a revised team configuration. Gave copy to Dave. Briefly went through the positions with the group.

Ken - I think we should work on a 5 year plan, a strategy. Like building a fuels project within a landscape. Include the Rocky Basin dialogue ideas, to fill the gaps. Then if they don't cut it, then you can do something different. May need to have a separate group prepare this.

Kim - My basic team premise is that we will enjoy and have fun in what we are doing. Everyone on a team has a right to do that. We have to work through all the personalities. We are dealt a deck of cards that we need to work with. We need to think about that. It is really incumbent on the IC's on who is going to fit and who is not.

Pep talk from Kim...Ty 1 IC can be very fun, it really depends on the people you have working with you. When he was on the Ty 2 there was this whole perception of the Ty 1 "egos", and didn't really want a part of it. But it is really not that way at all. It boils down to the people, who make it fun.

IC discussion

Kim will be available as TY 1 IC one more year.

Kim has talked with his current deputy, and his future does not include becoming the Ty 1 primary IC. As per Kim, he is outstanding at staffing, covering their backsides, but does have some conflicts with his current job. Will be able to let Don take Ty 2 team, then Marc can go out as TY1 trainee. Also look for Ty 1 trainee assignments with other teams.

Larry - won't move up to Ty 1. He will continue to Deputy Ty 2 or be a primary Ty 2 IC. Joe - Not sure, 2 more years, maybe 5.

Bill - wants to stay as a FUMT IC

Mike Frary is also a really good IC. With both Bill Wallis and Andy Parker retiring soon, Mike's future availability in question.

Mark Giacoletto would like to step up as an IC, would need to do Ty 2 first.

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Don has certain timeframes that as Fire Chief he has to do the budget and knows he will be unavailable. And Marc knows he needs to step up. He had S520 in 1997.

Reality check, Kim has one more year to give us, so after that we have to figure it out. Kim - having time in as a deputy IC is very important. We are behind the curveball. To be nationally competitive, the IC needs to be tuned in. And giving them a year as the deputy helps that.

Another discussion point, is that their needs to be a better marriage between the Rocky Basin teams. The continental divide has to be broken down. So that when people apply, if they don't get selected for the one, then they are up for grabs to the other Rocky Basin teams.

3. Review and identify mentee's and trainee's for 2007

Kim gave Dave a list of Ty 1 team trainees and status report, considerations, etc.

Discussion on the definition on mentees and trainees. They are almost synonymous. The intent was to help them be more successful at S520. Also would give them some experience to see if that was a career path they wanted to go down. However, a mentee on an assignment does not work on his taskbook.

4. Identify the T1 trainees that completed their assignments

Dave Carter not completed, but close.

Roger Showman complete, ready for S520.

Mark Giacoletto not completed, ready for S520

Vern Bentley not completed, future interests?

T.J. Hunt completed, needs more OJT.

Richard Sterry completed, ready for IMT1.

Ray Bergquist completed.

Beth Anderson completed.

Roy Spencer not completed.

Eric Rebizke not completed.

Larry Long completed, ready for IMT1.

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Discussion about pushing people through too fast, have not had quality time as far as tenure, in the 1st couple years have had quality assignments for Ty 2 teams. But the flunkout rates on S520 were high, that is where the mentee relationship idea came in.

See RMA Mob Guide 22.9.1, Sec I and National Mob Guide 63.1.1

Pete - this has been a viable way of bringing folks into the C&G positions.

The idea was to focus on helping people pass S520.

Recommends allocating as many S520 candidates as you can, this way they can go out in the 6 additional mentee/trainee positions.

Pete will prepare the annual vacancy announcement as per the timelines in the mob guide. He will clarify that if you are already committed to a team you need not re-apply. Any unassigned trainees do need to re-apply. And give a heads up that any not assigned to RMA teams will be offered up to any Rocky Basin teams who have vacancies. He will send on to Dave, and as well we will keep a copy of this in the ops committee electronic files.

5. IC's identify team new equipment and supplies needs (with estimated costs) need for 2007

All the IC's will email Dave their list. Quite a bit of discussion on this after the RMCG piece of the meeting, where it sounded like they are definitely planning on helping with purchases, just need to figure out the best purchasing strategies.

6. Mob Guide assignments

Did not cover this at this meeting.

7. Misc discussion

All RMA IHC superintendents will be invited to our January meeting in order to facilitate discussions on how the season went, availability concerns, and preparedness reviews.

An Operations Committee Representative should endeavor to participate in their Preparedness Reviews, acting as a liaison to the committee.

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8. Discuss possible RMCG recognition awards for IHC's Exclusive Use Helitack crews, Airtanker Bases, others?

Did not cover this at this meeting.

10. USFS Regional Aviation Officer topics to IC's

Tom Landon had a few topics he wanted to cover with the IC's in particular.

- a. T1 Helicopters: Make sure that the exact criteria needed is spelled out on the order. Tom noticed one instance while flying over a fire that the T1 helicopter being used, was only able to carry 300 - 350 gallons. It was an S61. Make sure that you look at the performance and compare with what you are paying per hour. You need to have good aviation folks making these decisions. If you are short of these folks, at times you may want to empower the Helicopter Mangers to make these decisions.
- b. SEATs: They are only cost effective within a 50 mile radius. Once instance he knew of they were flying from Custer to a fire north of Casper. Finally the seat base was moved to Sheridan, but try to keep an eye on those sorts of things.
- c. Retardant: Question he knows he will be asked at the national RAO meeting next week...SEATS and larger tankers...do you still need both? An emphatic Yes.

The **January meeting** will be in Denver, at the Rocky Mt. Coordination Center. Beginning at 1300 on the 16th, ending at 1700 on the 17th.